

Case 2762

***Griffithides* Portlock, 1843 (Trilobita): proposed confirmation of *Griffithides longiceps* Portlock, 1843 as the type species, so conserving *Bollandia* Reed, 1943**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the Carboniferous trilobite name *Griffithides* Portlock, 1843 in its accustomed usage by setting aside an overlooked type species designation. In 1846 Oldham designated *Asaphus globiceps* Phillips, 1836 as type of *Griffithides*, but the subsequent designation by Vogdes (1890) of *G. longiceps* Portlock, 1843 is universally accepted. In 1943 Reed designated *Asaphus globiceps* as the type of his new subgenus *Bollandia*. It is proposed that Oldham's designation of *Asaphus globiceps* as type of *Griffithides* be set aside to conserve *Griffithides* and *Bollandia* in their accustomed usage.

1. Portlock (1843, p. 310) established the genus *Griffithides* with four included species. These were, in page order:

p. 310 *Griffithides longiceps* sp. nov.

p. 311 *Griffithides platyceps* sp. nov.

p. 311 *Asaphus globiceps* Phillips, 1836 (p. 240)

p. 312 *Griffithides longispinus* sp. nov.

Portlock did not designate a type species.

2. Oldham (1846, p. 188) designated *Asaphus globiceps* as the type species of *Griffithides*, using the following words: 'In 1843, Portlock... established... two new genera, *Griffithides* and *Phillipsia*, of the former of which the *Griffithides globiceps* may be considered the typical species'. All subsequent workers on Carboniferous trilobites neglected Oldham's designation, with one exception. Weber (1937, p. 66) gave *Asaphus globiceps* as the type species of *Griffithides*, but gave no reason. He did not quote Oldham's work either on p. 66 or under 'literature'.

3. Woodward (1883, pp. 27–28) in his fundamental work on British Carboniferous trilobites did not give a type species for *Griffithides*. He repeated (pp. 30–32) Oldham's description of *Asaphus globiceps* but omitted the sentence in which Oldham designated it as type species of *Griffithides*.

4. Vogdes (1890, p. 116), referring to *Griffithides*, wrote: 'Type, *Griffithides longiceps* Portlock', but made no further comment. Vogdes listed Oldham's 1846 work on p. 56 of his bibliography but did not notice, or did not accept, that Oldham had designated *Asaphus globiceps* as the type species.

5. Weller (1936, p. 706) revised *Griffithides*. He accepted *G. longiceps* as its type species with the following remark: 'by subsequent designation (Vogdes, 1890)'.

6. Reed (1943, p. 58) discussed the type species of *Griffithides* thus: 'It is generally acknowledged that *Gr. longiceps*, Portlock, should be regarded as the genotype, though Weber (1937, p. 66) apparently chooses *Asaphus globiceps* Phillips (1836, p. 240, pl. xxii, figs. 16–20), and puts *Gr. longiceps* as merely characterizing a group of the genus'. Reed accepted *G. longiceps* as the type species of *Griffithides* and (p. 62) designated *Asaphus globiceps* as the type species of his new subgenus *Bollandia* (p. 62) which he placed within the genus *Permoproetus* Toumanský, 1935.

7. In the *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology*, Weller (1959, p. 399) gave *G. longiceps* as the type species of *Griffithides* and *Asaphus globiceps* as the type species of *Bollandia*. He diagnosed both genera as corresponding to those type species.

8. Since 1959, all authors have followed the type species designations for *Griffithides* and *Bollandia* as given in the *Treatise*. For example, both *Griffithides* (with type species *G. longiceps*) and *Bollandia* (with type species *Asaphus globiceps*) have been used by Bouček & Příbyl (1960, p. 30), Osmólska (1970, pp. 33, 108), Morris (1988, pp. 35, 102) and Tilsley (1988, pp. 163, 168). A representative list of nine more papers by five authors using *Griffithides* or *Bollandia* with these type species designations is held by the Commission Secretariat.

9. To accept Oldham's designation of *Asaphus globiceps* as type species of *Griffithides* would have the following consequences:

a). *Bollandia* becomes a junior objective synonym of *Griffithides*.

b). The name *Griffithides* must be transferred to the species currently attributed to *Bollandia*, and the species currently attributed to *Griffithides* are without a name.

These consequences disturb the current usage of the nominal genera *Griffithides* and *Bollandia* and, in order to conserve these nominal genera in their current usage, I propose the setting aside of all designations of type species for *Griffithides* prior to that by Vogdes (1890).

10. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all designations of type species for the nominal genus *Griffithides* Portlock, 1843 prior to that by Vogdes (1890) of *Griffithides longiceps* Portlock, 1843;

(2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:

(a) *Bollandia* Reed, 1943 (gender: feminine), type species by original designation *Asaphus globiceps* Phillips, 1836;

(b) *Griffithides* Portlock, 1843 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Vogdes (1890) *Griffithides longiceps* Portlock, 1843, as ruled in (1) above;

(3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:

(a) *globiceps* Phillips, 1836, as published in the binomen *Asaphus globiceps* (specific name of the type species of *Bollandia* Reed, 1943);

(b) *longiceps* Portlock, 1843, as published in the binomen *Griffithides longiceps* (specific name of the type species of *Griffithides* Portlock, 1843).

References

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